

CAESAR'S CAMP IS ATTACKED BY BELGIANS

GRAMMAR ASSUMED:

*Ablative Absolute; Passive
Periphrastic; Dative of Agent*

WHELOCK: CHAPTER 24

This is an excerpt from Caesar's commentaries on his military campaigns in Gaul (58-51 B.C.). Although it is written in a seemingly objective third-person style, it puts emphasis on Caesar's skill and courage as a leader.

Caesar, equitātū¹ praemissō, sex legiōnēs dūcēbat; post
eās tōtius exercitūs impedimenta collocāverat; equitēs
nostrī, flūmine trānsitō, cum hostiū equitātū proelium
commisērunt. Illi identidem in silvās ad suōs sē recipiē-
bant ac rursus ex silvā in nostrōs impetum faciēbant.
Nostrī tantum ad finem silvae insequi eōs audēbant.
Interim legiōnēs sex, ubi primum vērunt, armīs dēposi-
tīs, castra mūnīre coepērunt. Ubi prīma impedimenta
nostrī exercitūs ab eis quī in silvīs latēbant vīsa sunt,
10 (omnibus cum cōpiis) prōvolāverunt impetumque in nostrōs
equitēs fecērunt. Equitibus facile pulsīs, incredibilī ce-
leritāte ad flūmen cucurrērunt. Itaque unō tempore et ad
silvās et in flūmine et in manibus nostrīs hostēs vidēban-
tur. Eādem celeritāte ad nostra castra atque eōs quī in
15 labōre occupātī erant cucurrērunt.

Caesarī omnia unō tempore erant agenda: vexil-
lum pōnendum, signum tubā dandum, quod eōs iussit
arma tollere; a labōre revocandī milites; aciēs parandā.
(Quārum rerum) magnam partem brevitas temporis et
20 hostiū adventus impediēbat. Itaque ducēs, propter pro-
pinquitatem et celeritatem hostiū, Caesaris imperium
nōn expectābant, sed per sē ea quae vidēbantur faciēbant.
—adapted from Caesar, *The Gallic War* 2.19-20

1 gen. of legiones 2 gen. of equitatu 3 suos = reflexive obj. used substantively, "their own men/people"
4 inf. of a dependent, translate as "to follow" + accusative 5 curro, currere, cucurri, cursus =
to run
6 ablative of time at which 7 repetition of three sets implies simultaneous action - what the
8 "a band of soldiers" 9 dative of same time 10 supply est

VOCABULARY

equitātus, -ūs, m.: cavalry
legiō, -ōnis, f.: legion, unit of the Roman army
exercitus, -ūs, m.: army
impedimentum, -ī, n.: hindrance, baggage
collocō (1): to place, arrange, station
eques, -quitis, m.: horseman, cavalryman
trānsēō, -īre, -iī, -itus: to go across, cross
proelium, -iī, n.: battle (proelium committere = to engage in battle)
identidem (adverb): repeatedly, again and again
silva, -ae, f.: forest, woods (same meaning in sg. and pl.)
sē recipere: to retreat

rursus (adverb): back, back again
impetus, -ūs, m.: attack, assault
tantum (adverb): only
insequor, -sequi, -secutus sum: to pursue (translate actively)
interim (adverb): meanwhile
arma, -ōrum, n. pl.: arms, weapons
dēpōnō, -ere, -posui, -positus: to lay aside, put down
castra, -ōrum, n. pl.: military camp
mūniō, -īre, -iī, -itus: to fortify
lateō, -ēre, latui: to lie hidden, hide

prōvolō (1): to fly out, rush forth
facile (adverb): easily
celeritās, -tātis, f.: speed, haste
ad silvās: near the woods
occupō (1): to seize, occupy
vexillum, -ī, n.: military banner, flag, standard
tuba, -ae, f.: trumpet, war trumpet
quod: subject of iussit; its antecedent is signum
aciēs, -eī, f.: sharp edge, line of battle
quārum = hārum

adventus, -ūs, m.: approach, arrival
impediō, -īre, -iī, -itus: to hinder
propinquitās, -tātis, f.: nearness, proximity
per sē: by themselves, on their own authority
videor, -ēri, vīsus sum: to seem, to seem best